it must be seen as a larger humanitarian issue. Government have on several occasions expressed deep concern to the Sri Lanka Government about the safety & security of Tamils in Sri Lanka, about civilian sufferings and casualties and the way these factors result in a larger influx of refugees into India.

Amendment to National Highways Act

2579. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the National Highways Act to enable private sector participation in the coistructiioi of Highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the National Highways Act, 1956 providing for collection of fees from the users of certain notified sections of National Highways, which would enable private sector participation, is under active consideration of the Government of India.

Permission for amnesty international to visit Punjab and Kashmir

2580. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some time back, the Prime Minister had refused permission to Amnesty International to visit Punjab and Kashmir saying that they should visit Karachi first;

(b) whether it is a fact that later on Government lifted all restrictions on their visit to the two States in India; and

(c) if so, what were the reasons, first to deny permission for Amnesty International's visit to the two troubled States and later to yield their demand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c) Following a review of our policy towards Amnesty International, Government decided to let Members of Amnesty International to come to India for private visits and for discussions with the Union Government. There is no request from Amnesty International for investigations in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Hence, the question of giving or denying permission for such visit does not arise.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Where is he? Has he resigned?

(**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair)

I. Notification publishing the Central Industrial Security Force (Second Amendment) Rules, 1990

II. Notifications publishing the President's Pensioi (Amendment) Rules, 1990.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification G.S.R. No 330, dated the 26th May, 1990, publishing the Central Industrial Security Force (Second Amendment) Rules 1990, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT 1235|90)

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification G.S.R. 676(E), dated the 30th July, 1990, publishing the President's Pension (Amendment) Rules 1990, under sub-section (2) of section 5 of the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1253|90]

Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Portswing).

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): Madam I lay on the

[Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan]

Table under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Ports Wing):—

(i) G.S.R. No. 449(E), dated the 18th April, 1990, aproving the amendment of Mormugao Port (Shipment of Ore and Pellets from Mechanical Ore Handling Plant at Berth No. 9 and related matters) Regulations, 1979.

(ii) G.S.R. No. 633(E), dated the 13th July, 1990, approving the amendment to the Bombay Port Trust Central Bye Laws.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1556/90 for (i) and (ii)]

I. Notifications publishing the Post Boxes (Eight Amendment) order, 1990

II. Notfication publishing the Indian Post Office (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1990.

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र) महोदया, मैं निम्न लिखित पत्र सभापटल पर रखता हूं :—

I. पोस्ट बाक्स (आठवां संशोधन) आदेश, 1990 को प्रकाशित करने वाली संचार मंत्रालय (डाक सेवा बोर्ड) की अधिसूचना सं० का० नि० सं० 554(अ), दिनांक 5 जून, 1990 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में)।

II. भारतीय डाकघर (सातवां संशोधन) नियम, 1990 को प्रकाशित करने वाली संचार मंत्रालय (डाक विभाग) (डाक सेवा बोर्ड) की अधिसूचना सं० का० नि० संख्या 545(अ), दिनांक 5 जून, 1990 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी, तथा हिन्दी में)।

[Placed in Library *See* No. 18 1957/90 for I and II]

Report of the Committee of Parliament on Official Languages

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the Committee of Parliament on official Languages— Part IV Chapter 1 to 41 and annexures (1989). [Placed in Library See No. LT-1365/90]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) o fthe Second Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifty-first Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Air India— Fare aspect.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: (Maharashtra): Madam, I want to raise a very important issue. Yesterday, the Chairman made some observations regarding the absence of the Prime Minister from the House but the T.V. in the 'News of the Parliament' both in English and Hindi completely blacked it out. It is not only the disrespect of the House, but of the chairman also. This action on behalf of the TV is most deplorable, condemnable. The Minister is here. I would like to know, what is the actual version given by the reporters who were covering the proceedings of the House? The whole text should be given and we should be told, at what stage this was censared. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mohd. Salim.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: We want complete information about this and those who covered these proceedings. They are all persons of experience and on their behalf they will never cut out the remarks of the Chairman. (*Interruptions*). The minister is not hearing It is very unfortunate. Even our walk-out from the House... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): The Minister is here, Mr. Upendra is sitting here